Magnet Detective: Predict and Test

Answers and adult support.

Prepare the practical work

An adult provides one large classroom magnet and safe large objects with smooth edges. Do not use loose small magnets. Keep the magnet away from electronic equipment. The adult holds and supervises the magnet throughout.

Use the same simple test twice

Hold the magnet near the object, then gently touch the same part of it. With adult support, notice whether there is a pull. Remove the magnet and repeat. Avoid judging attraction only by whether a heavy object can be lifted.

No fixed material answer list

Record the real result for the actual objects and magnet. P means a pull is felt; N means no pull is felt; ? means unsure. A metal spoon may or may not be attracted: different metals and alloys behave differently. Do not replace uncertainty with an assumed answer.

Compare evidence

Accept an honest changed prediction or uncertain observation. Repeating a test can check a surprising result. Discuss what stayed the same: the magnet, object, part tested and method. This worksheet does not require a successful prediction.